

Conflict Processes Section Holds First Meeting

Manus I. Midlarsky

University of Colorado, Boulder

The first organizational meeting of the Conflict Processes section of the American Political Science Association met at the 1984 APSA conference in Washington. This meeting took place after the APSA Council approved the formation of the Section. One hundred eighty-nine signatures had been obtained requesting formation of the Conflict Processes Section.

At the meeting, the Section organizer, Manus I. Midlarsky, was nominated President-elect and a Council consisting of Dina Zinnes, Phillip Schrodt, Jacek Kugler, Ted Gurr, Irving Horowitz, and Charles Doran, also were nominated. All were elected to office. One-half of the members are to serve for two years and half for one year, with the respective terms of office to be decided by lot by the President-elect.

The meeting in the Hamilton Suite was extremely well attended with all seats filled and some participants standing in the back of the room. There was a rather interesting mix of older, more established scholars and younger ones rising in the discipline. The discussion was lively with most of it focusing on the purposes of the Section. It was thought that a major purpose should be the focus on similarities in form and explanation of diverse forms of political conflict such as war and revolution. This emphasis would fill the "interstices" between traditional international relations concerns and domestic concerns which normally are represented on the APSA meeting programs. Some thought that in addition to the study of political conflict there should be some focus on conflict management or the applied aspects of conflict behavior. Others suggested an interdisciplinary focus would be appropriate with approaches to the study of political conflict introduced from a variety of related social science disciplines. State violence was suggested as a topic of concern as was conflict involving non-governmental organi-

zations. After some continued discussion, it was decided to mandate the Conflict Processes Council to construct a statement of purpose based on the suggestion that "The Conflict Processes Section of the American Political Science Association is intended as a forum for the study of all forms of political conflict."

All in all it appeared to be a most auspicious beginning. We hope that the current level of interest will be maintained and that contributions to the program at APSA meetings and other activities will continue to capture the attention and participation of the membership. □

APSA Joins Amicus Brief on Confidentiality

The American Political Science Association has joined with the American Sociological Association and the American Anthropological Association in an amicus curiae brief submitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals in support of Mario Brajuha, a graduate student in sociology at the State University of New York.

Mr. Brajuha refused to turn over his dissertation notes to a federal grand jury investigating a suspicious fire in the restaurant where Mr. Brajuha was doing his field-work research. In April, Judge Jack Weinstein of the District Court of New York quashed a subpoena that would have required Mr. Brajuha to release his notes to the grand jury. The government has decided to appeal this decision.

In the decision Judge Weinstein declared that, like journalists, serious scholars are entitled to a "qualified privilege not to reveal documents or confidential sources." However, the right of the researcher to protect the confidentiality of field notes is limited and must be decided on a case-by-case basis that balances "societal interests in fostering scholarly research" with "the public interest in obtaining information about possible criminal activities through the grand jury process." In this case, since Mr. Brajuha testified in person before the grand jury, the subpoena for his notes is "unnecessarily

intrusive" on First Amendment rights and academic freedom.

IPSA XIII World Congress in Paris, July 15-20, 1985

APSA is seeking funds from the National Science Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies to support travel to the 1985 Congress of the International Political Science Association in Paris. APSA is also negotiating with an international travel agency to make group travel arrangements. Information on both travel grants and group travel arrangements will be available from the APSA national office after January 15, 1985. This information will also be printed in the Winter 1985 *PS*.

Political Science Journal Guide Revised

The 1984 revised edition of *Political Science Journal Information* by Fenton Martin and Robert Goehlert is now available. The guide contains a definitive listing of scholarly journals of interest to political scientists and describes the specific review and publication procedures followed by these journals.

Order your copy at \$6 for APSA members and \$12 for nonmembers from: Journal Information/APSA, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Please add \$.75 for postage for each copy you order.

APSA Publishes Nonacademic Career Guide and Undergraduate Faculty Directory

Alternative Careers for Political Scientists contains practical advice for obtaining nonacademic employment. The authors are political scientists who personally experienced and observed the employment opportunities they describe. Chapters cover the federal government executive branch, Capitol Hill, state and

local government, research and consulting, interest groups and associations, and corporate public affairs, as well as a general introduction to nonacademic careers. The cost is \$5 for APSA members and \$10 for nonmembers. Bulk order discounts are available to APSA Departmental Service members.

The *Directory of Undergraduate Political Science Faculty* contains listings for nearly 500 separate departments of political science whose highest degree offering is a B.A. The *Directory* lists approximately 1,800 faculty members by name, with their highest degree, fields of specialization, and current position. The price is \$8 for APSA members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Orders must be prepaid and mailed to APSA, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Please add \$.75 to cover the shipping cost for each book ordered.

Legislative Studies Section Organizes Panels for Annual Meeting

The Legislative Studies Section of the APSA will run a series of panels at the 1985 Convention in New Orleans. Some of these panels will be co-sponsored with the Program Committee while others will be sponsored solely by the Legislative Studies Section. Those interested in organizing panels, roundtables, or workshops, in presenting papers, or in serving as discussants should contact Sandy Maisel, the Program Chair for the Legislative Studies Section, at the Department of Government, Colby College, Waterville, ME 04901, as soon as possible.

Proposals Welcome for 1985 Annual Meeting

APSA members who wish to submit proposals for papers or to offer to appear as discussants or panel chairs should do so by December 1, 1984. Proposals for whole panels are welcome, but those suggestions must be received as early as possible.